

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-06 EB-07 COME-00 IGA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 L-02 /088 W  
----- 039436

R 061600Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

SECSTATE WASHDC 9882

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ELTN, GB, GW

SUBJECT: GABON ACCESS ROADS

REF: A. LIBREVILLE 0639; B. ABIDJAN 3712; C. LIBREVILLE 594  
0665; D. DAKAR 2612; E. YAOUNDE 1512

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH FRAU KOCH IN THE  
MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION REGARDING POSSIBLE  
VISIT BY WEDEMAN. FRAU KOCH HAD RECENTLY RETURNED  
FROM LIBREVILLE WHERE SHE SPOKE PERSONALLY WITH  
PRESIDENT BONGO ABOUT THE ROAD PROJECT. ACCORDING TO  
KOCH, BONGO MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WANTS EACH  
DONOR TO PROCEED IMMEDIATELY ON ITS SEPARATE ROAD  
SEGMENTS. THIS STATEMENT, COUPLED WITH FRG INSISTENCE  
ON UNTYING OF US AID, LED KOCH TO CONCLUDE THAT JOINT  
FUNDING WAS A DEAD ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

2. WITH DR. EHM IN LONDON FOR DONOR MEETINGS, FRAU  
KOCH, HIS DEPUTY, IS CURRENTLY IN CHARGE OF CENTRAL  
AFRICAN AFFAIRS IN FRG MINISTRY FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION.  
WHILE IN GABON LAST WEEK, SHE SPOKE DIRECTLY WITH  
PRESIDENT BONGO ON THE ACCESS ROAD PROJECT. ACCORDING  
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TO HER, HE MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WANTED EACH

DONOR TO PROCEED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH ITS SEGMENT OF THE ROAD NETWORK. HE APPARENTLY IS CONCERNED THAT THE PLANNING FOR THESE ROADS HAS ALREADY DRAGGED ON FOR A CONSIDERABLE LENGTH OF TIME. INASMUCH AS THE GERMANS HAVE COMPLETED ALL OF THEIR FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND ARE PREPARED TO INITIATE BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION, HE IMPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO REASON FOR FURTHER DELAY.

3. KOCH WAS ALSO AWARE OF THE DISCUSSION OVER THE PAST MONTH ABOUT THE TYING OF US ASSISTANCE FOR THIS PROJECT. SHE INDICATED THAT THE FRG WAS FIRMLY OPPOSED TO US TYING AND WOULD NOT CONSIDER JOINT FUNDING AS LONG AS US AID WAS RESTRICTED IN THIS MANNER. THUS, SHE CONCLUDED ON THE BASIS OF BONGO'S STATEMENT AND THE INABILITY OF THE US TO UNTIE ITS AID, THAT THERE WAS NO POSSIBILITY FOR JOINT FUNDING.

4. ACCORDING TO KOCH, THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC WILL SEND A KREDITANSTALT OFFICIAL TO THE JOINT DONOR MEETING ON MAY 14. SHE UNDERSTOOD, HOWEVER, THAT THE MEETING WOULD ONLY CONSIDER COMMON PROBLEMS AND APPROACHES IN CONSTRUCTING THE ROAD NETWORK.

5. WHILE WE ARE NOT SURE THAT THERE IS ANY HOPE OF CHANGING THE GERMAN POSITION ON JOINT-FUNDING, WE ARE PREPARED TO MAKE HIGHER-LEVEL REPRESENTATIONS IN SUPPORT OF US/AID POSITION IF WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT THE GOG STILL SUPPORTS THIS APPROACH.

6. IN VIEW OF FRG DECISION TO GO AHEAD ON ITS OWN, AND UNCERTAINTY AS TO WHETHER GOG ITSELF CONTINUES TO SUPPORT JOINT FUNDING, WE BELIEVE THAT FOR THE MOMENT, PENDING CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER GOG CONTINUES TO SUPPORT JOINT-FUNDING, WEDEMAN COULD MOST USEFULLY PARTICIPATE IN MAY 14 LIBREVILLE MEETING, LEAVING QUESTION OF BONN VISIT OPEN UNTIL GOG POSITION CLARIFIED. DURING MEETING WEDEMAN MIGHT WELL POSE TO KREDITANSTALT REP FEASIBILITY OF SOLUTIONS FOR TYING PROBLEM OUTLINED IN REF B.

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7. FOR WEDEMAN IN DAKAR: SINCE GABON COMES UNDER EHM'S AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY AS DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL AFRICAN AFFAIRS, IT DOES NOT APPEAR TO US THAT CONTACT WITH SCHWEIGER, DIRECTOR FOR WEST AFRICAN AFFAIRS, WOULD BE LOGICAL OR PRODUCTIVE.  
HILLENBRAND

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